



17 13+
TEEN

THE CURSE OF THE BLOOD STARTS HERE!

Batgirl



BROMBAL
MIYAZAWA
CASTRO
SPICER

ALL IN



WRITTEN BY EISNER AWARD WINNER GREG RUCKA • ART BY DaNi

NEXT
LEVEL

MARCH

BATWOMAN #1

© & TM DC.

DAUGHTER. SISTER. SOLDIER. HERO.

GOTHAM CHINATOWN.

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT LIKE A MONSTER.

I WAS RAISED BY A MONSTER. TO HURT. TO MAIM. TO KILL.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU, CASSANDRA CAIN?!

COMING. ALMOST HOME.

I WAS BORN OF A WOMAN WHO DID MONSTROUS THINGS. TO OTHERS. TO ME. TO HERSELF.

BUT THAT IS MY BLOOD FAMILY...

YOU'VE BEEN GONE SO LONG, EVERY EXTRA MINUTE FEELS LIKE A CENTURY!

SORRY, STEPHANIE.

HELPED BROTHER AND NEW FRIEND FIND PLACE TO STAY.

THE FAMILY I CHOSE IS DIFFERENT. SPECIAL. GOOD.

WELL, THE FOOD'S ALMOST READY, SO HURRY!

DICK MADE LASAGNA. DAMIAN SET THE TABLE.

EVEN BRUCE WAS ON TIME, AND I WASN'T EVEN SURE HE'D SHOW!*

*SEE BATMAN #7

THEY MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A HERO. LIKE I'M SPECIAL. GOOD.

THE WHOLE GANG'S HERE WAITING TO WELCOME YOU HOME.

YES. I KNOW.

AND SPEAKING OF YOUR BROTHER...

I KNOW I AM GOOD.

...YOU'VE BARELY TOLD ME ABOUT HIM!

WHAT'S HE LIKE? HIS FAVORITE FOOD? COLOR?

GREEN, PROBABLY.

DOES HE TEASE YOU LIKE I DO?

I KNOW I AM NOT A MONSTER.

AND I WILL I EVER GET TO MEET HIM?!

STEPH, I-I DON'T--

WHAT AM I SAYING?! YOU'LL TELL ME ALL ABOUT HIM WHEN YOU GET HERE!

BUT SOMETIMES...

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE--

Guh!

...I STILL FEEL
LIKE A MONSTER.

ALL
THE
BLOOD

gkk--!

--YOU AREN'T
AVOIDING US,
RIGHT?

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
BATGIRL
THE CURSE OF
THE BLOOD
PART
1 OF 3

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KYUYONG EOM VARIANT COVER
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BLOOD.

CASS?

ARE YOU THERE?

HYUUHH!



MINE--? HOW?

SEEN THIS BEFORE.

WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM? YOU AREN'T ON PATROL, ARE YOU?

No--

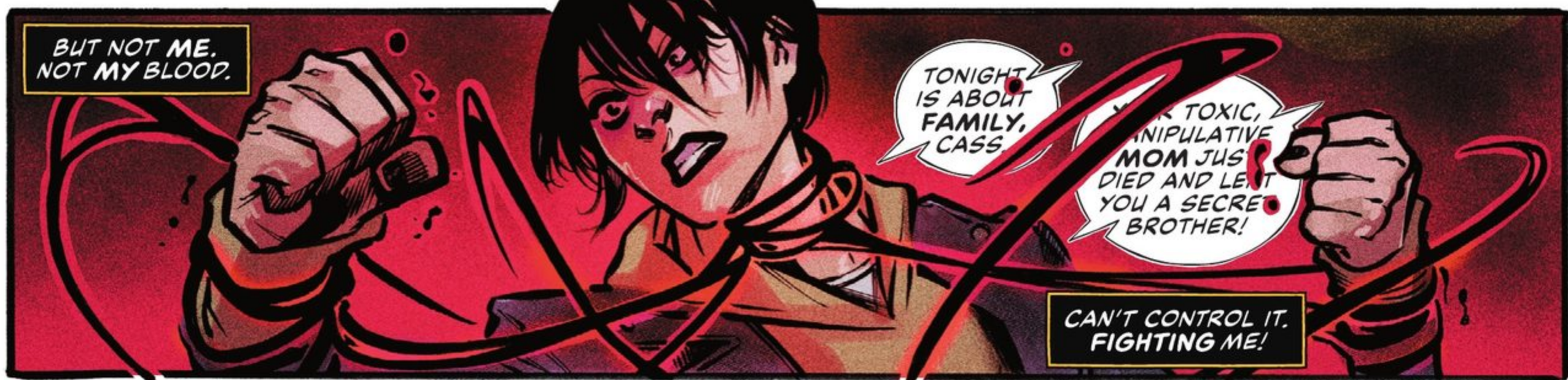


THE BLOOD OF WU! MY MOTHER'S SIDE, HER COUSINS--

GOOD! THE GOTHAM PD ARE HUNTING US BAT-TYPES TIGHT NOW. IT'S DANGER US!

HH!

--THEY WIELD THEIR BLOOD LIKE A WEAPON.



BUT NOT ME. NOT MY BLOOD.

TONIGHT IS ABOUT FAMILY, CASS

YOUR TOXIC, MANIPULATIVE MOM JUST DIED AND LEFT YOU A SECRET BROTHER!

CAN'T CONTROL IT. FIGHTING ME!

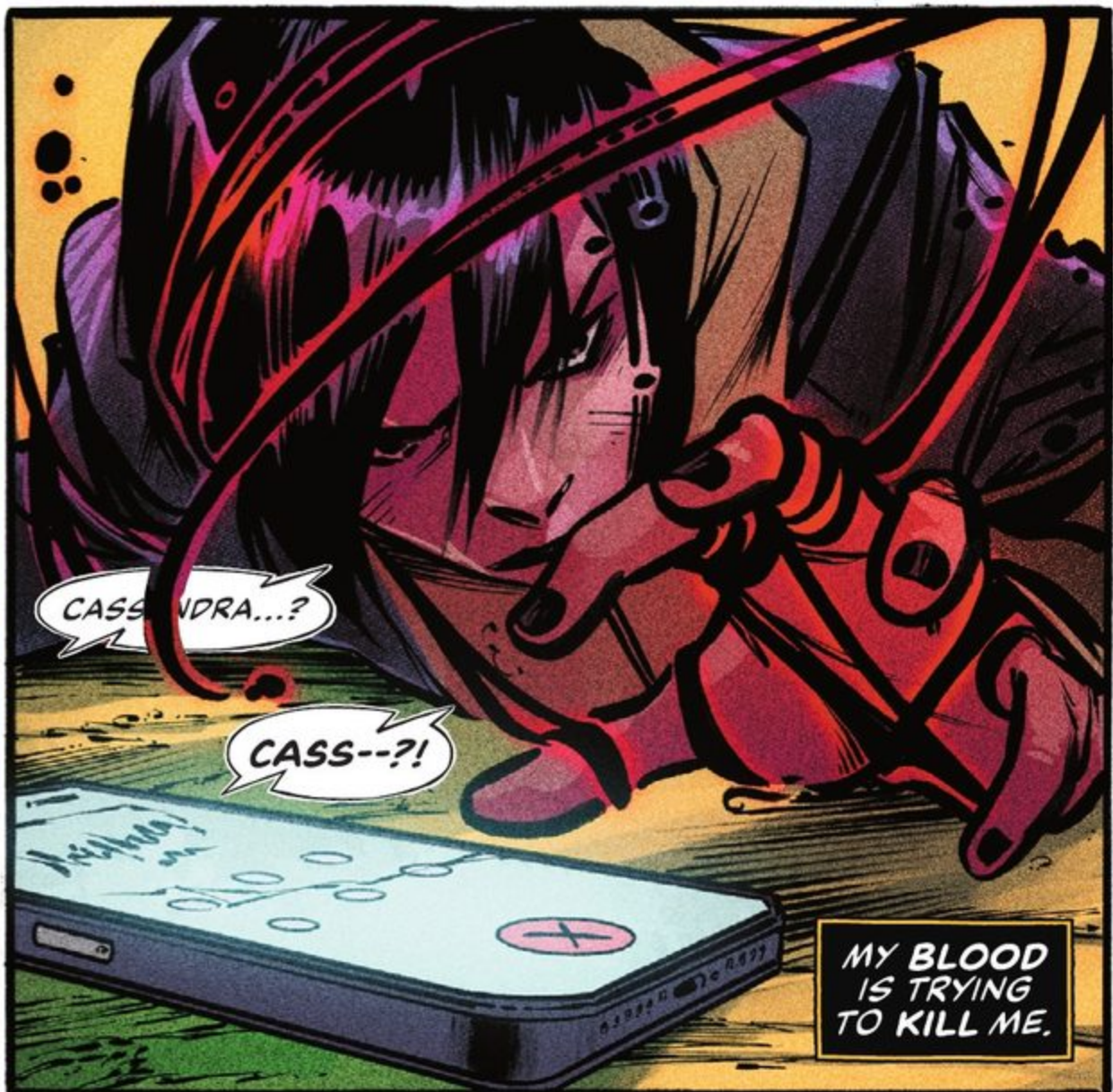


HOW--?

YOU HAD TO BE HOME.

GHH!

MY BLOOD--



CASSANDRA...?

CASS--?!

MY BLOOD IS TRYING TO KILL ME.



MAN.

IT'S EVEN **BIGGER** THAN I EVER IMAGINED, JAYA...

SAYS THE BOY WHO GREW UP SURROUNDED BY **MOUNTAINS**.



AND NEVER **LEFT** 'EM UNTIL NOW!

THIS CITY IS LIKE...A WHOLE OTHER **WORLD**.

IN GOTHAM, EACH **STREET** IS AN ENTIRE WORLD, JADE TIGER.

AN ENTIRE **UNIVERSE**.

MINE WAS FOUR BLOCKS **EAST** OF HERE...



WHERE THE LADY DOWN THE HALL STRUGGLED WITH RENT BUT STILL BOUGHT ME **CANDY**.

WHERE THE MAN AT THE CORNER STORE MADE ME **KOTTU ROTI** WHILE TELLING ME ALL ABOUT THE **WAR** HE BARELY ESCAPED BETWEEN SIPS OF SPICED **TEA**.

BUT I WAS A **KID** AND JUST AFRAID THE **FOOD** WOULD GO COLD AND MY **MOTHER'D** BE ANGRY...



WAS SHE?

NEVER FOR LONG. SHE BURNED BRIGHT AND FAST, MY MOTHER.

RIGHT. **SORRY**.

YOU'VE LOST BOTH YOUR PARENTS. I can't even imagine...



I SEEM TO ONLY **LOSE**, TENJI.

MY MOTHER, MY FATHER, THE ORDER OF SHIVA-- NOW THE LEAGUE OF SHADOWS. I HAVE SPENT MY **LIFE** DEVOTED TO OTHERS, ONLY TO **LOSE** THEM...

...IF THIS IS THE RIPENING OF PAST **KARMA**, WHAT HARVEST WAITS **BEYOND** THIS LIFE AND INTO THE **NEXT**?



SORRY. WE SHOULD ENJOY THE VIEW.

NAH, YOU GOT ME THINKING, 'CAUSE LIKE...

SPEAK, SON OF SHIVA.

YOU AREN'T YOUR SISTER. I KNOW **WORDS** COME EASIER TO YOU.



THAT'S JUST IT. MY **SISTER**, RIGHT?

I GREW UP, AND MY WORLD WAS SO **SMALL**. IT WAS A RANCH WITH MY **DAD** AND MY **UNCLE**, AND ALL I DID WAS READ **COMICS** AND TRAIN TO BE THE **WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTER**.

SOMEONE WHO COULD **LIVE UP** TO THE **GREATNESS** OF MY **FAMILY**.

BUT NOW I'M HERE. NO RANCH, NO **DAD** OR **MOM**, ONLY HER, THE **BATGIRL**, AND I'M IN HER **WORLD**.

A **WORLD** THIS **BIG** THAT'S FILLED WITH A **WHOLE OTHER LIFE** AND **FAMILY**, AND NOW I'M LEFT **WONDERING...**



...WHERE DO I FIT INTO ALL **THAT**?

I'VE STUDIED EVERY FORM OF **HEALING** KNOWN TO **HUMANKIND**, AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE LEARNED CURES THIS **EXACT** THING MOST OF THE **TIME**?

WHAT?



TALKING TO HER. ASKING **QUESTIONS...**

SHARING YOUR **FEELINGS!**

RIGHT. RIGHT. RIGHT.

OKAY, I **GET IT!** **HAHAHA!**



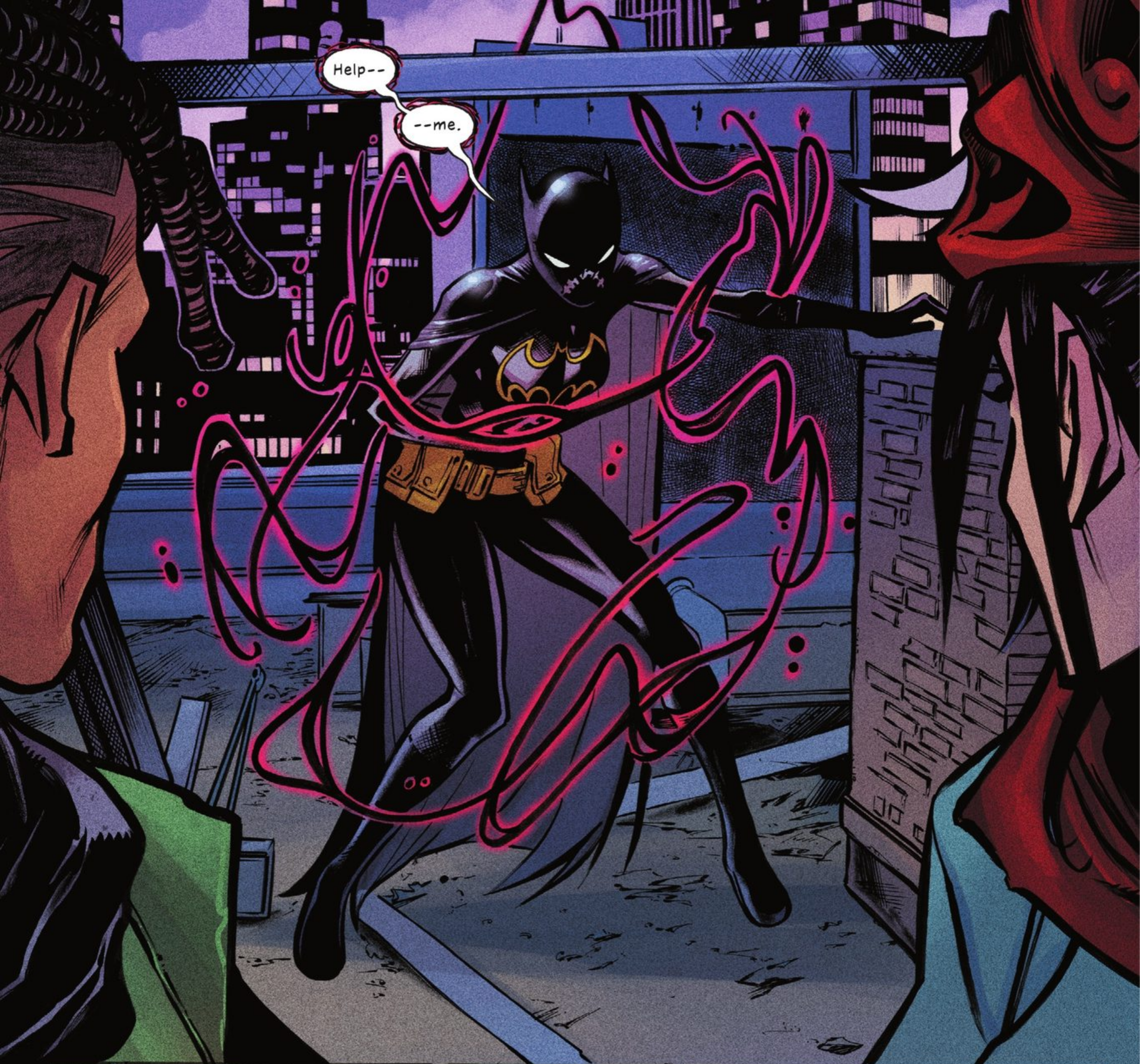
WE BUILD THE **WORLD** AROUND US EVERY SINGLE DAY, **TENJI TURNER**. **BRICK BY BRICK**. **STREET BY STREET**.

IN **THIS** LIFE, FOR ALL THE **LIVES** AROUND US, AND INTO THE **NEXT** AND EVERY ONE AFTER THAT.

WHEN YOU SEE YOUR **SISTER**, JUST **ASK HER** FOR--



Help.



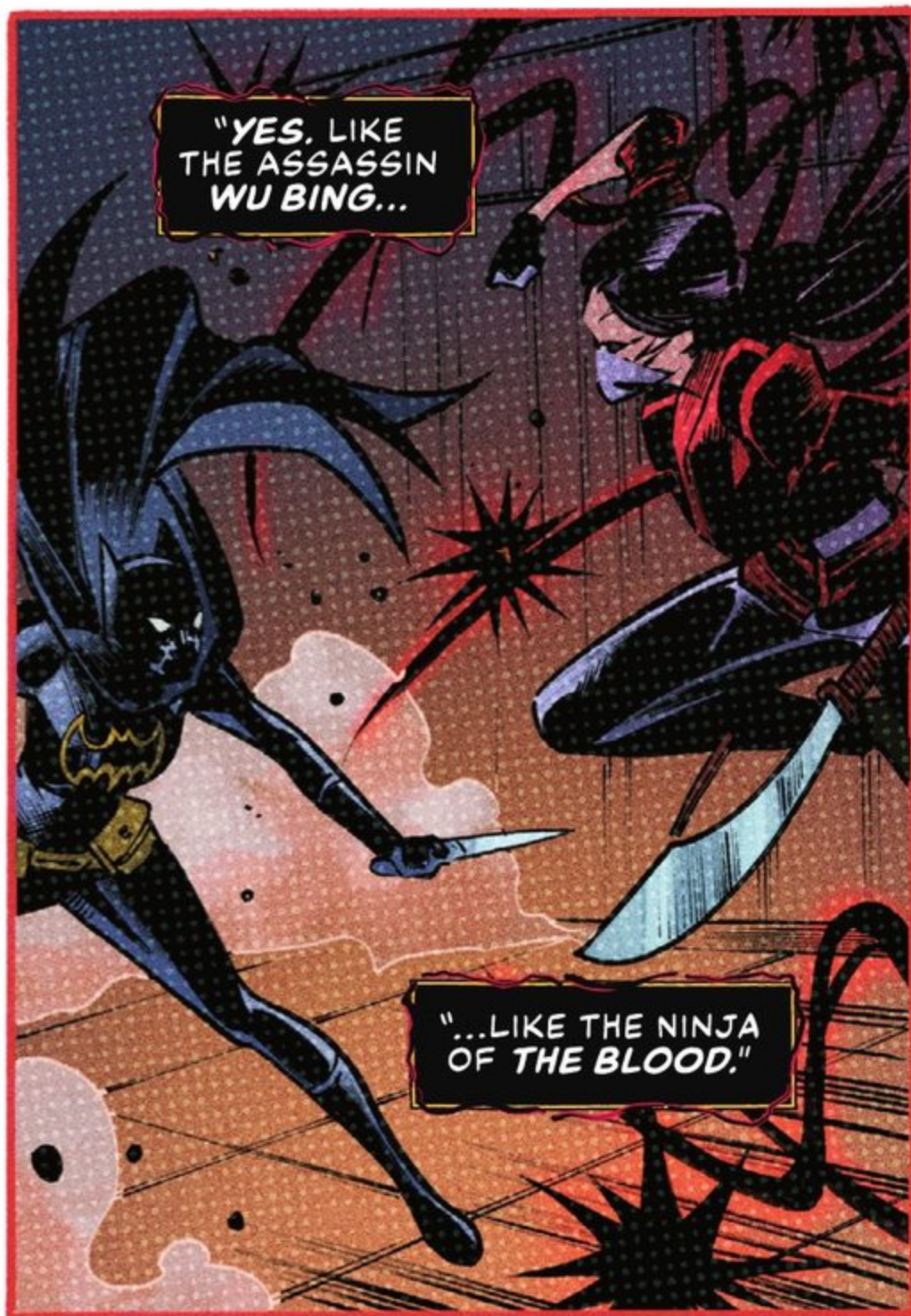


My
BLOOD...

I-I feel
every **OUNCE** of
it moving through
my **BODY**.
It is--

--taking
EVERYTHING
to keep it
INSIDE.

YOU
DON'T
MEAN
LIKE...



"YES. LIKE
THE ASSASSIN
WU BING..."

"...LIKE THE NINJA
OF THE BLOOD."



I KNOW YOU'RE **RELATED** TO
THEM THROUGH YOUR MOTHER,
BUT I'VE **STUDIED** THE BLOOD.
THERE ARE **RITUALS** AND OATHS
TO TAKE TO **UNLOCK** THESE
GENETIC GIFTS.

I did no
RITUAL.
Took no
OATH.

THEN
HOW DID
THIS
HAPPEN?



I don't
know.

But now
I am **LATE**
for dinner, and
my **FAMILY**
is waiting. I
can't--

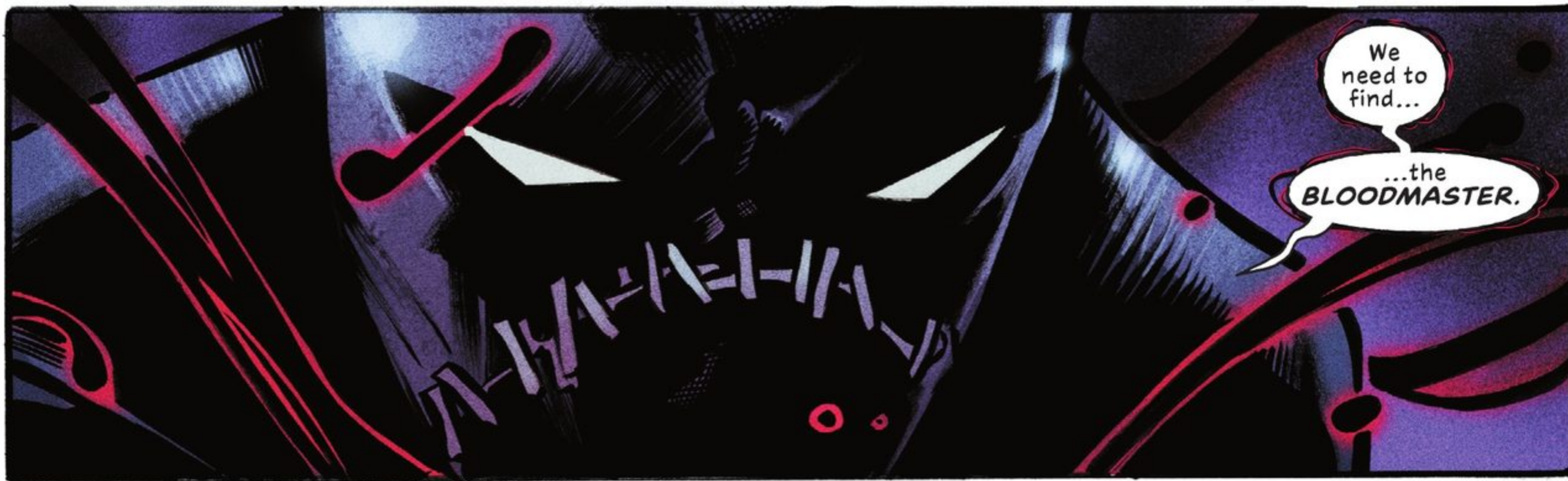
I can't
let them
SEE me
like this.



Brick by
brick.

Street by
street.

WE'RE HERE
FOR YOU, SIS.
HOW DO WE
FIX IT?



We
need to
find...

...the
BLOODMASTER.



GOTHAM FINANCIAL DISTRICT.

"TODAY IS THE
GRAND OPENING OF
WUCORP TOWER."



THAT'S
RIGHT!

IT'S CHINA'S
LARGEST TECH
AND MEDIA
CONGLOMERATE'S
FIRST **TOWER**
ON AMERICAN
SOIL.

THIS CAN'T BE A
COINCIDENCE.



"MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. BUT THE
BLOOD OF WU IS PLANTING
ROOTS IN GOTHAM..."



...AND
BATGIRL
WILL PLAY
NO PART
IN IT.



"WE MUST FIND
WU LIN, THE
BLOODMASTER,
LEADER OF THE
BLOOD AND OUR
MOTHER'S
COUSIN.

"WE WILL
CRASH HIS
**GRAND
OPENING...**



...AND GET
ANSWERS.

MAKE HIM
**REVERSE THIS
CURSE.**



"BUT WE DO THIS QUIET."

"POLICE ARE HUNTING MY FAMILY."

KREAAK



"SO WE SNEAK IN--"

"--USE THE PARTY AS COVER..."



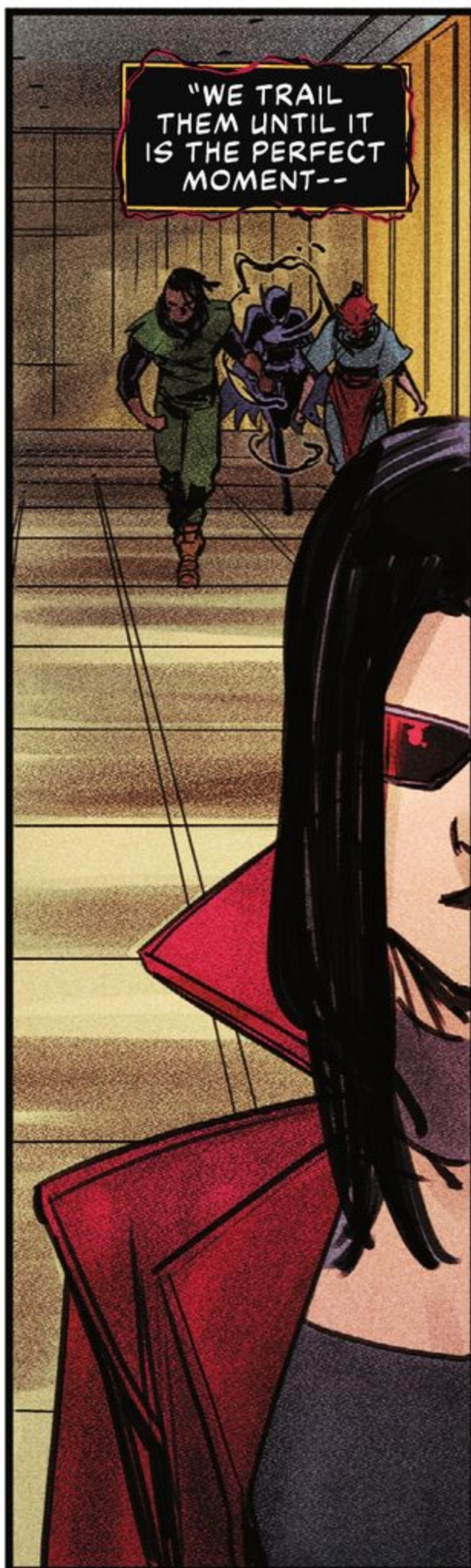
"...UNTIL WE FIND WU LIN--"



"--AND GET HIM ALONE."



"THE BLOOD IS DEADLY, BUT LOW-LEVEL NINJA ARE NO MATCH FOR US."



"WE TRAIL THEM UNTIL IT IS THE PERFECT MOMENT--"



"--TO STRIKE."

够了!

这家公司现在是我的!*

*ENOUGH!
NOW THIS COMPANY IS MINE!



READY?

SET...



*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN.



MY BLOOD WANTS OUT.

STAY **BACK**,
BATGIRL!

WE WILL
HANDLE
THIS!

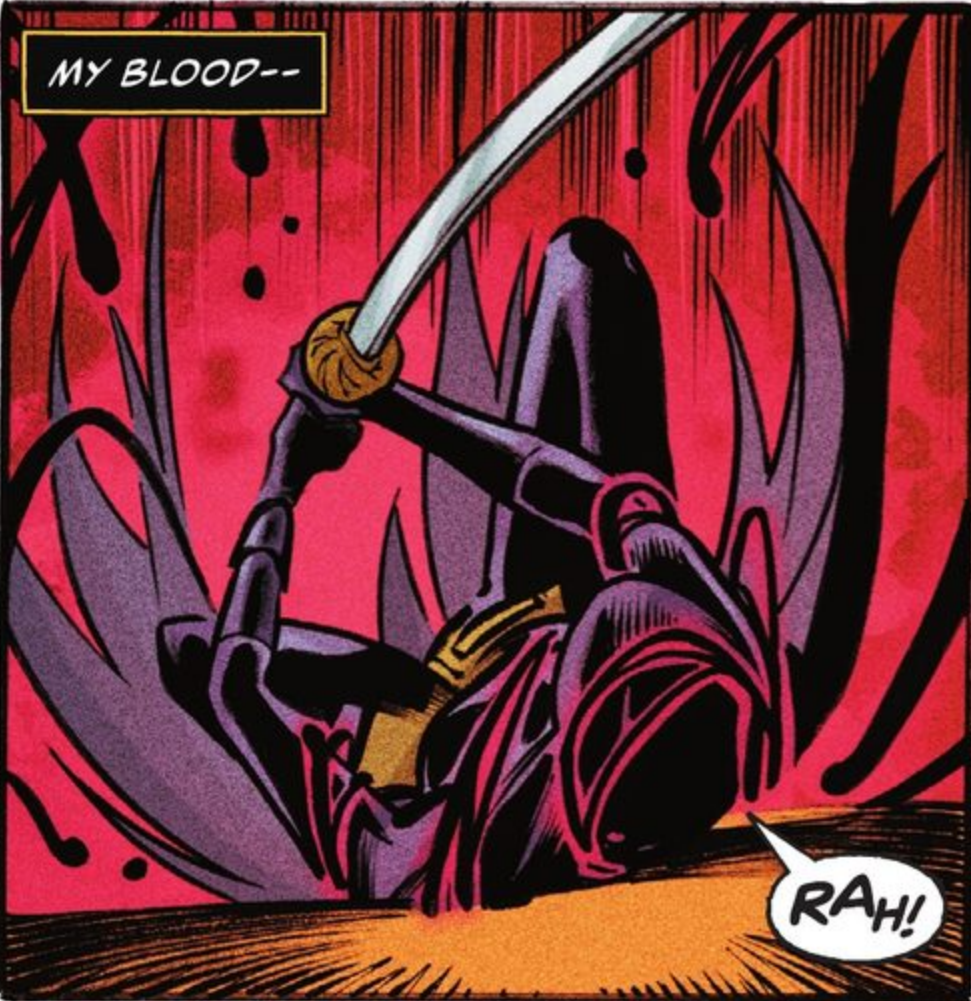
BUT IF I LET IT...

...WILL I EVER STOP
BLEEDING?

Must
stop--

Getting
away...

NOO!











NOT MY FAMILY!

BATGIRL--!



I HAVE ALWAYS FELT LIKE A MONSTER.

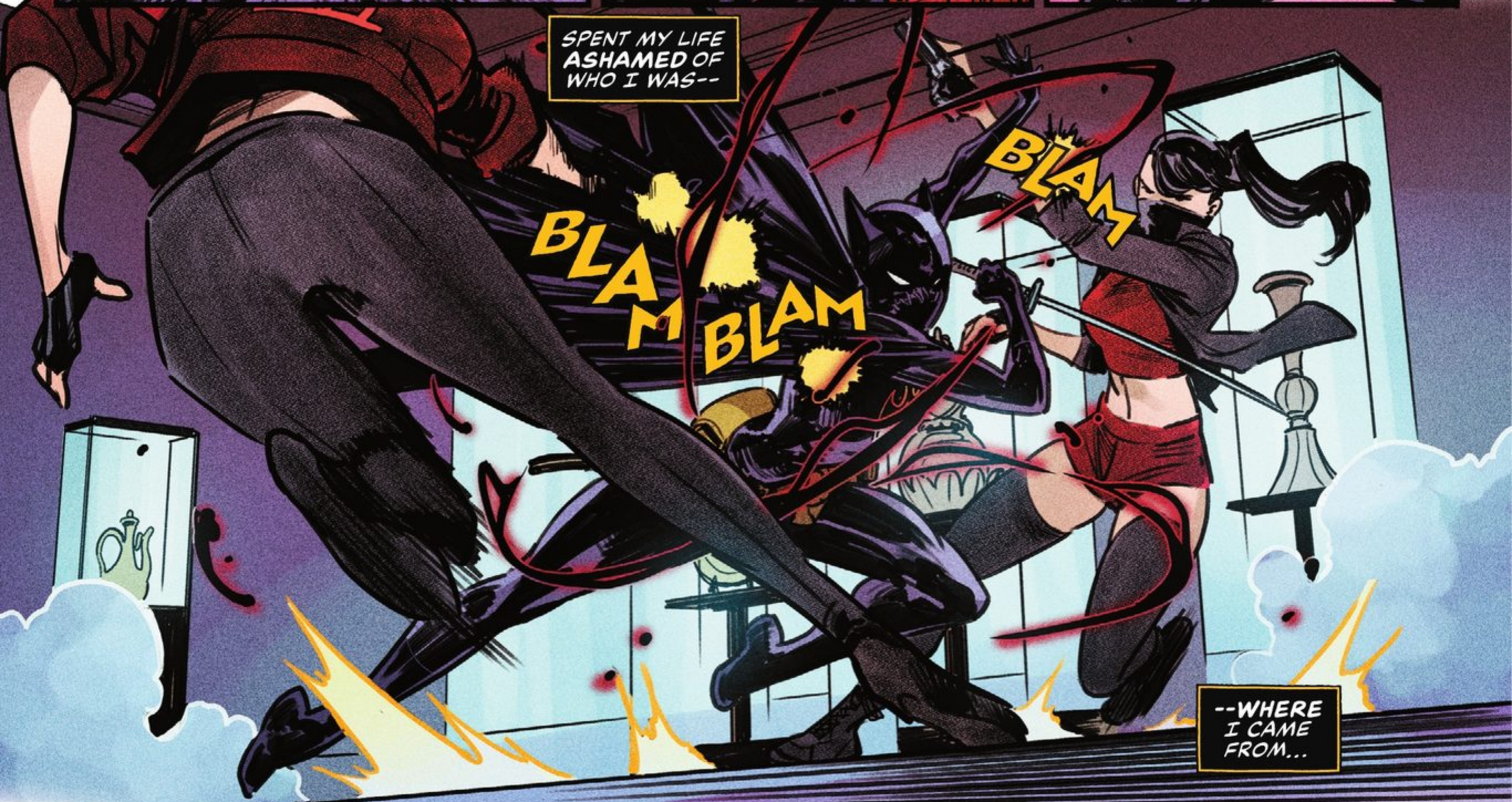
BLAM

KLINK



SPENT MY LIFE UNLEARNING... MONSTROUS THINGS.

Ghh!



SPENT MY LIFE ASHAMED OF WHO I WAS--

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BLAM

--WHERE I CAME FROM...

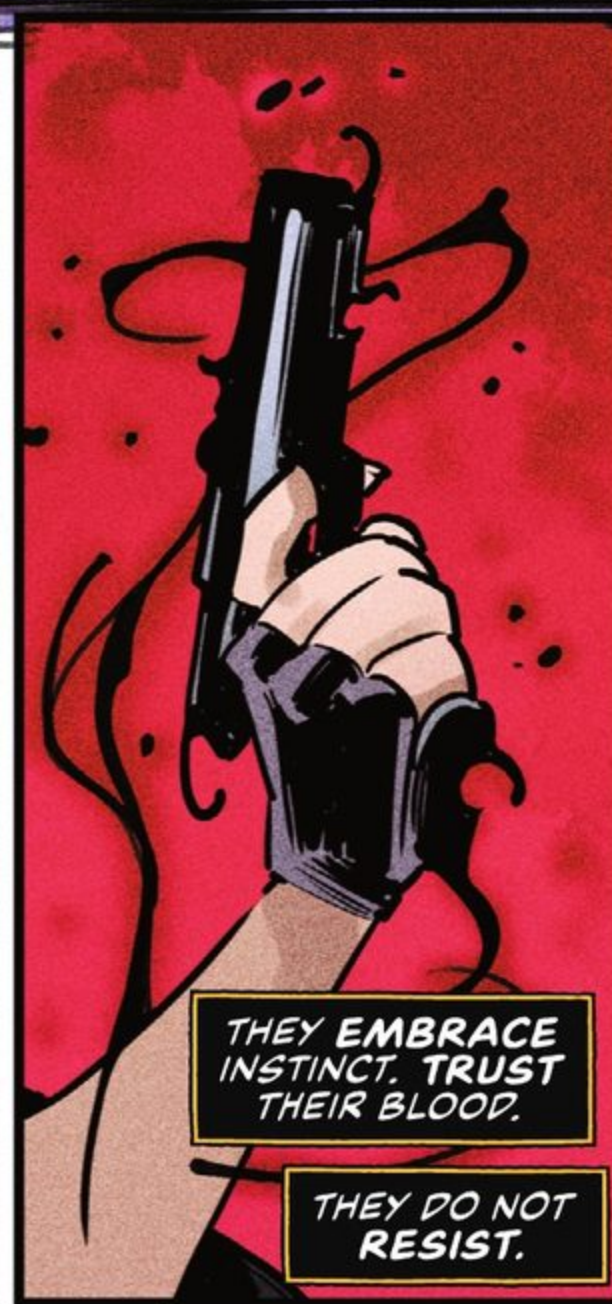


...AND WHAT MY BLOOD MIGHT MAKE ME.

SLICE



BUT OTHERS DO NOT SHARE THIS FEAR.



THEY EMBRACE INSTINCT. TRUST THEIR BLOOD.

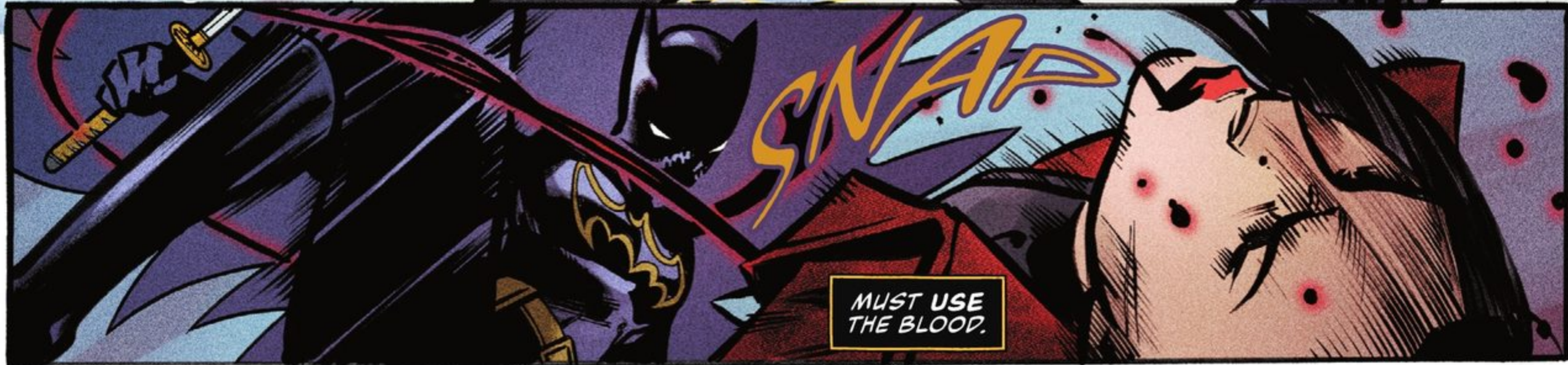
THEY DO NOT RESIST.



MAYBE I NEED TO DO THE SAME.

MAYBE...

...I MUST BE THE
MONSTER!







YES.

THAT'S A
PORTAL TO
THE *SPIRIT*
WORLD.

NEXT:
INTO THE
SPIRIT WORLD!

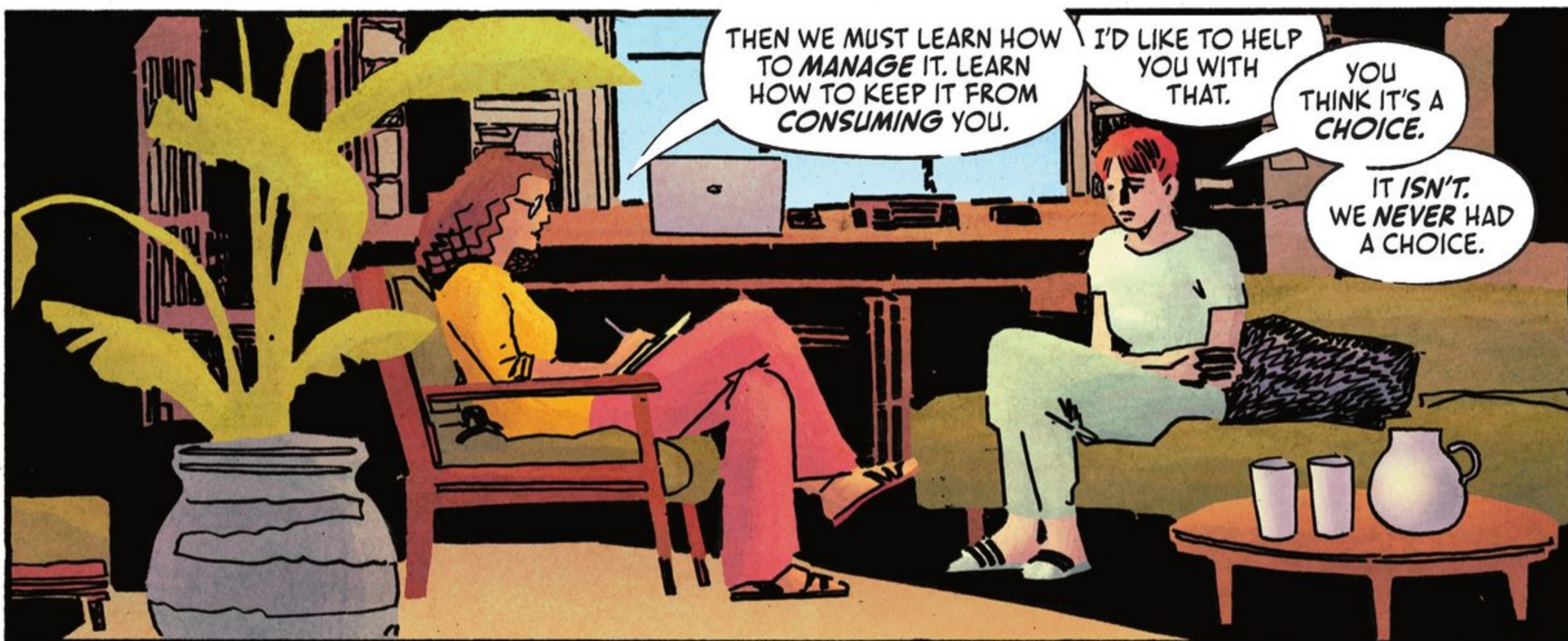


YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER TODAY.

HOPEFULLY THE PAIN HAS PASSED?



It will *never* pass.



THEN WE MUST LEARN HOW TO *MANAGE* IT. LEARN HOW TO KEEP IT FROM *CONSUMING* YOU.

I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU WITH THAT.

YOU THINK IT'S A *CHOICE*.

IT *ISN'T*. WE *NEVER* HAD A CHOICE.



Never.



TELL ME ABOUT THE LAST TIME YOU SAW YOUR SISTER.

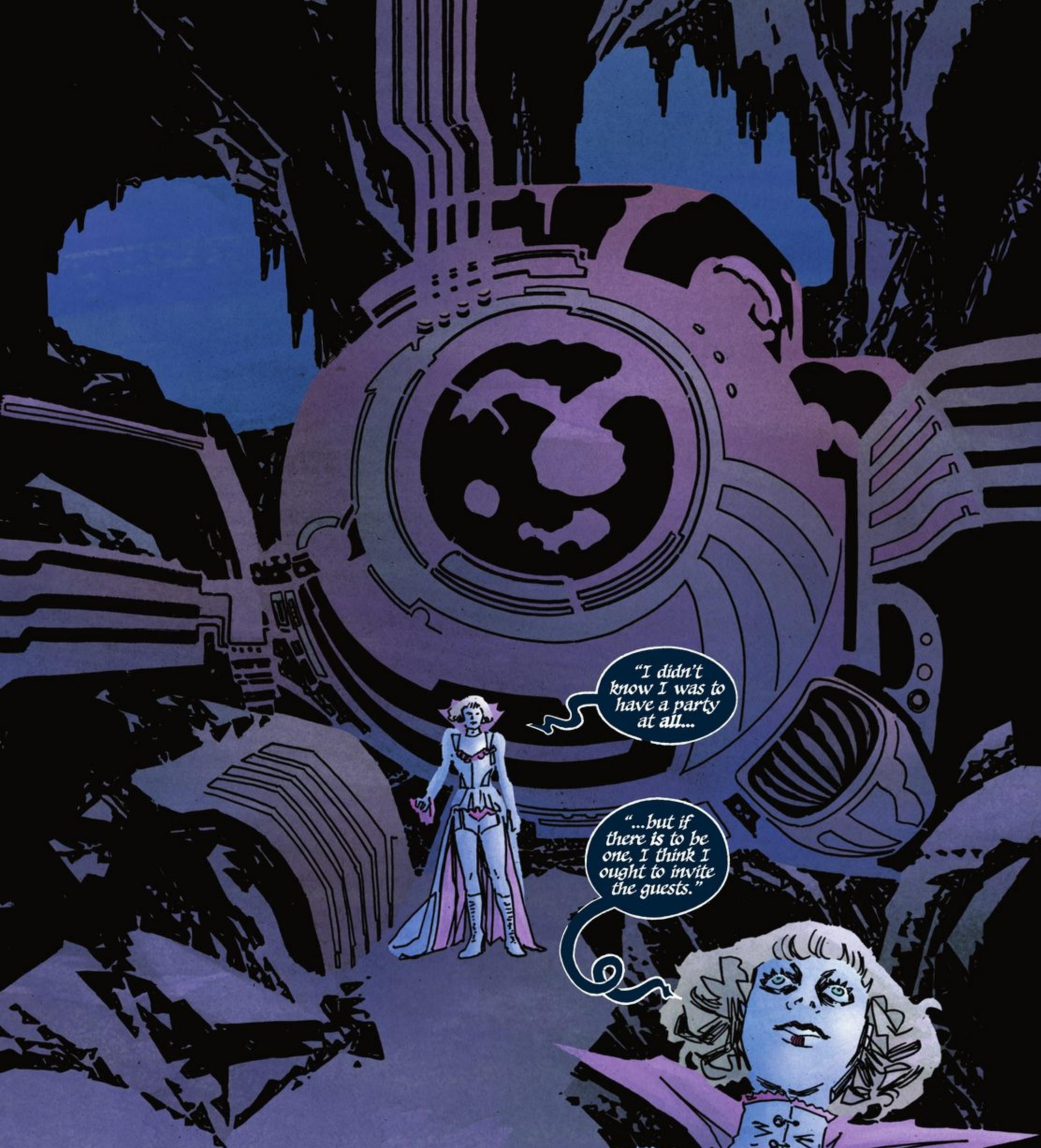


KAW!

KAW!

BATWOMAN
#1 PREVIEW

WRITER **GREG RUCKA**
ARTIST **DANI**
COLORS **MATT HOLLINGSWORTH**
LETTERS **HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU**



"I didn't know I was to have a party at all..."

"...but if there is to be one, I think I ought to invite the guests."



BETH-- DON'T, DON'T DO IT--

"How am I to stop it?"



--YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...

...please...

...Beth, it's me...
...it's Kate.

“...and the twice-named shall perish, and the age of Darkseid will come...”

...it is written, it will be...



...Alice and Batwoman...



...Beth and Kate...



...HOW DO WE FIGHT THE DEVIL WHEN THE DEVIL IS REAL?

WITH EVERYTHING.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
BATWOMAN #1
ON SALE IN MARCH!





ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN

**COLLECTED
EDITION
AVAILABLE IN
MARCH**

VOL. 2: SON OF THE DEMON



**THE MAN OF STEEL
FACES THE
DEMON WITHIN.**

Written by JASON AARON

Art by RAFA SANDOVAL and CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO

Cover art by RAFA SANDOVAL



THE MATRIARCH

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

The Matriarch has arrived in the pages of *Wonder Woman*, and she's here to change everything. Superstar writer Tom King reveals Diana's most ambitious villain yet, a royal force of nature with power to topple gods and heroes alike. As "The Wonder War" begins, this future-born conqueror promises an epic showdown that will redefine the Amazing Amazon's legacy.

What can you tell us about the creation of the Matriarch?

From the beginning my brilliant artist, Daniel Sampere, and I wanted to create a huge *Wonder Woman* villain that would be the focus of our arc. We very cleverly put her origin story on the very first page of the series, and nobody noticed, which was fun! We took 25 issues of story leading up to the launch of this character who is the pivotal villain of the whole series, and her name is the Matriarch.

How do you craft a villain worthy of Wonder Woman's legacy?

It's my chance to do a Lex Luthor. My chance to do a Joker. That's who the Matriarch is. People who are reading *Wonder Woman* today need an experience as big as the people who were reading *Batman* in the '30s or '40s. They deserve huge comics that aren't just looking backward, but looking forward.

What can fans expect as we head toward "The Wonder War"?

There's a lot more to come. We've been building on this. We created this character called the Sovereign, who may or may not be her father. You see her birth and the birth of Trinity around the same time. These two babies who start together becoming the greatest of adversaries in the future will be the driving force behind the comic. I couldn't be more excited for where this is going.

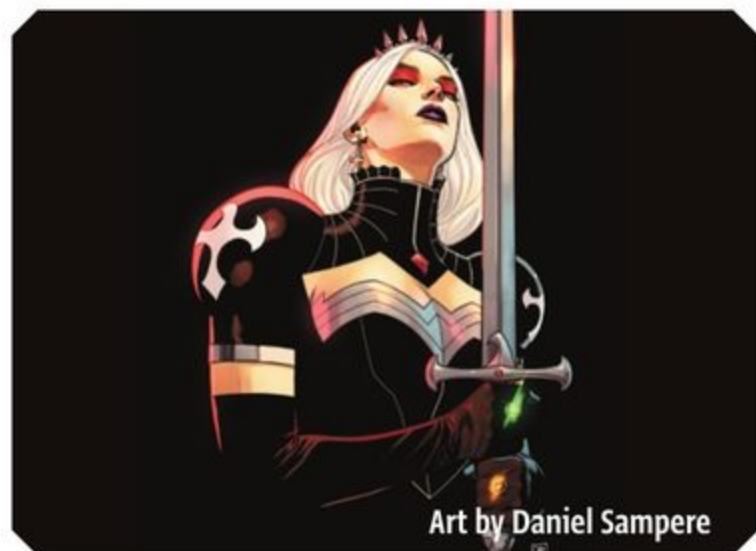
Can you share a bit about the character's design?

Daniel's design is perfect. I wanted her to look like an evil princess, or to have that sort of royalty to her. This look of "I've inherited the world and I can do anything."



Art by Jorge Fornés

What you started to see in issue #25, the big launch of this character, is she exists in the future. I was sort of inspired by the comics of my youth, where the great villains came from the future. In the future, she has left Themyscira, has conquered Earth, and has killed the Justice League. When you see each of their deaths, their last words to the Matriarch before they succumb to her total power are "Wonder Woman," who's the last hope against this villain.



Art by Daniel Sampere



Art by Daniel Sampere

DON'T MISS THE EPIC START OF "THE WONDER WAR" IN *WONDER WOMAN* #31, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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